Board Meeting of May 15th, 2025

A telephone/zoom conference meeting of the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties was held on the above date. Chairperson Florio was in the chair.

The Executive Director read the following statement:

Pursuant to Section #5, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, notice of this meeting has been provided to the public by posting and maintaining the annual notice of the regular meetings of the Joint Meeting, on the bulletin board of the Maplewood Municipal Building, by mailing the annual notice of the regular meetings for 2025 to the Star Ledger, The Home News Tribune and to the offices of the Municipal Clerks of the 11 member municipalities of the Joint Meeting and to the City Clerk of the City of Elizabeth and to the County Clerks of the Counties of Essex and Union all on January 4th, 2025.

On roll call the following board members were present: Messrs. Ramos, Krakoviak, Florio, Petrosky and Leneus (joined @ 4:11pm); Ms. Romano, Ms. Bonanno, Ms. Hamlet, Ms. Adams and Ms. Frederic. Absent: Ms. Collum

Also, in attendance were Director Johnson; Messrs. Bonaccorso, Akinokun, Kairu, Kelly, Volpe and Berkeley Esq. of the Joint Meeting; J. Noble McDonnell, Esq. and E. Webster, Esq., of Connell Foley LLP; J. Burke, Esq. of Antonelli Kantor Rivera; N. Towers and J. Bonaccorso of CME Associates; R. LaMendola of AVA Consulting, Julie Needham of Echo Valley Advisors, David Leun of CDM Smith and Zachary Edelman of Fairview Insurance Agency Associates.

On motion by Mr. Krakoviak, seconded by Ms. Romano, the minutes of the last meeting were adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

On motion by Ms. Frederic, seconded by Ms. Bonanno, the Treasurer's report was adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

The Chairman then asked if there were any questions from the Board or any additions from the staff and professionals to the following reports:

Staff Reports – 2024 Annual Operations Report, The Treatment Plant, Industrial, Pretreatment and Financial Reports.

On motion by Mr. Ramos, second by Ms. Romano, all Staff Reports having been mailed to the Board members were received and ordered printed were adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

Professionals Reports - General Counsel Report, (Connell Foley, LLP), the Labor and Employment Counsel Report (Antonelli Kantor Rivera), the Special Conflict and Pretreatment Violations Counsel Report(s) (Antonelli Kantor Rivera), the Engineering Report (CME Associates), and the CSO Report (CDM Smith).

On motion by Mr. Petrosky, second by Ms. Adams, all Professional Reports having been mailed to the Board members were received and ordered printed were adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

P&P Committee Chair Ramos stated that the P&P Agenda Resolutions (R-052/25 – R-060/25) have been reviewed by the Committee and are recommended for approval by the Board as a part of a consent agenda. A brief explanation of each resolution will be given before the conclusion of this meeting.

The following verbal report was given (A brief explanation of each was provided by Director Johnson): Resolution (R-052/25) Authorizing Insurance Renewals, Resolution (R-053/25) Authorizing a Contract to Colliers Engineering & Design for Primary Settling Tank # 4 Upgrades – Reporting and Permitting, Resolution (R-054/25) Authorizing a Contract to Colliers Engineering & Design for Primary Settling Tank # 4 Upgrades – Construction Admin, Resolution (R-055/25) Authorizing Contract to Remington & Vernick Engineers (RVE) for Digester # 3 – Reporting and Permitting, Resolution (R-056/25) Authorizing a Contract to Remington & Vernick Engineers (RVE) for Digester # 3 – Construction Admin, Resolution (R-057/25) Approving the Execution and Delivery of Project Finance Agreements and other Matters Related to the 2025 Capital Improvement Project, Resolution (R-058/25) Authorizing Cooperative Pricing Purchasing for 2025, Resolution (R-059/25) was Tabled, Resolution (R-060/25) Authorizing Release and Payment of Claim by The Maplewood Country Club.

The Chairman read the following statement:

All items with an asterisk (*) are considered to be non-controversial by the Board and will be approved by one motion. There may be further discussion prior to the vote upon request of a member of the public or member. Also, any item may be removed for further discussion or for a separate roll call vote, in which case the item will be removed and considered in its normal sequence as part of the general order of business.

On motion by Ms. Adams, seconded by Mr. Ramos, Resolutions (R-052/25) – (R-060/25) were adopted. On Roll Call: ayes, Messrs. Leneus, Ramos, Petrosky, Krakoviak and Florio; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, Ms. Bonanno and Ms. Hamlet; nays, none

On motion by Ms. Frederic, seconded by Ms. Romano, Resolution (R-051/25) Payment of Bills was adopted. On Roll Call: ayes, Messrs. Leneus, Ramos, Petrosky, Krakoviak and Florio; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, Ms. Bonanno and Ms. Hamlet; nays, none

There was no correspondence.

The Chairperson asked for a motion to go into public comment. On motion to open public comments by Mr. Ramos, seconded by Ms. Bonanno, the public comment portion of the meeting was opened. The Chairperson asked if there was anyone wishing to address the Board on any Joint Meeting matters with a five-minute limit. Hearing no one, the public comment session was declared closed. The Chairperson asked for a motion to close public comment. On motion to close public comment by Ms. Romano, seconded by Mr. Florio. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

There was no closed session.

Under unfinished business, Superintendent Francis Bonaccorso followed-up and provided an explanation of the BOD and TSS deviations as requested by councilwoman Hamlet at the previous board meeting.

Under new business, the next meeting date will be June 26, 2025, due to Juneteenth holiday on July 19, 2025. WEFTEC Conference Commencing on September 27 – October 1, 2025, in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Joe Bonaccorso give a brief description of what the conference includes to the Board.

There being no further business on motion by Ms. Adams, seconded by Ms. Bonanno, the meeting then adjourned at 4:29 pm to meet again on June 26, 2025, unless called earlier by the Chair. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
Anibal Ramos Jr.